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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

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SUBJECT Plans for Mine Cable Lines

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1. Efforts of the North Korean Department of Industry succeeded in increasing production in many mines in the early part of 1950. With growing production, however, transportation problems also increased. The output of most of the larger mines had been transported to railroad terminals by shaft cable lines, installed under the Japanese administration. Because of the age of the shaft cable lines, frequent mechanical difficulties and breakage of cables have occurred.
2. From February to May 1950, many cable lines were in such bad condition that they could not be used and no materials were available for major repairs or new installations. Such mines as the Pyongyang anthracite coal mine, which used the Kopangsan-Sadong cable line, the Kilchu (129-20, 40-58) magnesium mine, and the Yongwon and Kaechon iron mines in Kaechon (125-58, 39-40) were forced to stock pile their output for lack of transport.
3. In early June KIM Ch'aek (金策), Minister of Industry, opened negotiations with the Soviet economic advisers in North Korea for the import of cable line equipment from the USSR. The four mines mentioned above plan to install new cable lines as soon as the promised equipment arrives. It is expected in summer 1950.

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